

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 952

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROKG STATEMENT ON ALLEGED BUGGING.

1. BY SEPTEL, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU TEXT OF LATEST STATEMENT ISSUED BY INFORMATION MINISTER KIM SANG-JIN IN HIS ROLE AS OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROKG. ESSENCE OF STATEMENT IS DEMAND FOR PUBLIC CLARIFICATION BY USG ON REPORTED BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE. STATEMENT INCLUDES THREAT THAT IF EARLY CLARIFICATION NOT FORTHCOMING, ROKG WILL BE OBLIGED TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION.

2. AS SOON AS I SAW AP PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT, WHICH INTER ALIA INCLUDES KIM'S TERMING "UNCONVINCING" STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL OF YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT, I CALLED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO HIS CHIEF SECRETARY, ASKING HIM TO PASS MESSAGE TO PRIMIN. I LODGED STRONG PROTEST ABOUT BOTH STATEMENTS IN BLUNT, UNVARNISHED TERMS. AFTER POINTING OUT INACCURACIES, PARTICULARLY IN WEDNESDAY'S STATEMENT, I TOLD CHIEF SECRETARY (CHAUNCEY LEE) THAT IF THERE IS ANY ASSUMPTION THAT WE CAN BE PRESSURED OR THREATENED BY SUCH STATEMENTS, ROKG HAD BETTER FORGET IT.

3. I ALSO STRESSED THAT MUTUAL EFFORTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND MYSELF DISCUSSED DECEMBER 8 MEETING TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF COUNSELOR KIM PROBLEM COULD WELL BE SERIOUSLY SET BACK AS A RESULT OF THESE STATEMENTS. I FURTHER ADDED THAT, IF ROKG SPOKESMAN ASSUMED THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ANY IMPRESSION ON AMERICAN PUBLIC HELPFUL TO KOREA BY THESE STATEMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WAS SERIOUSLY MISTAKEN. TONE AND INTEMPERATENESS OF BOTH

STATEMENTS WOULD NOT ONLY NOT BE HELPFUL WITHIN USG, BUT WOULD
BE MOST UNHELPFUL WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC.

4. CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY PASS MY VIEWS
TO PRIME MINISTER CHOE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, ALLEGATIONS, LISTENING DEVICES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL09738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-1172
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761258/aaaabxqb.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG STATEMENT ON ALLEGED BUGGING.
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, (KIM SANG-JIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006